



City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

October 25, 2011

Honorable Richard Conlin
President
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Dear Council President Conlin:

I am pleased to transmit the attached Council Bill which proposes expanding membership on the Board of Park Commissioners from seven to nine members. In addition, the Bill shifts the expiration date for all Park Commissioner terms from December 31 to March 31.

In 2007, the Board of Park Commissioners' membership changed such that three members are now appointed by the Mayor, three by the City Council, and the seventh member is selected by the other six Board members. In selecting the seventh member, the Board is required to conduct the entire selection process, from candidate interviews to discussion of the merits of the candidates, in public session as required by the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act. This process is very difficult and time-consuming. The proposed Bill eliminates the requirement that the Board select the seventh member.

Instead of the Board selecting the seventh member, the Bill proposes adding a young adult voice to the Board selected by the Get Engaged Program. Such a change will expand the perspective of Board members and help build young adult community leaders. Get Engaged has successfully placed young adults on City boards and commissions for nine years; the Board of Park Commissioners will be the fourteenth board or commission served by Get Engaged.

Additionally, the Bill shifts the expiration term for Park Commissioners from December 31 to March 31. The current December 31 expiration date creates significant problems in advertising, interviewing, and confirming Park Board candidates at year-end.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Should you have questions, please contact Susan Golub at 684-7046.

Sincerely,

Michael McGinn
Mayor of Seattle

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